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ALL THINGS IN ORDER

A Manual of Filing and Indexing for Ministers

by

GLENN C. TOMPKINS

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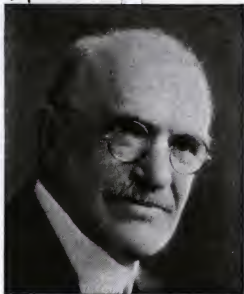
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The Lake Placid Club
Education Foundation



Dewey

1851—1951

GODFREY DEWEY

Lake Placid Club, N. Y.

TO SKETCH in a few words a recognizable picture of as many-sided a genius as my father, Melvil Dewey, is no easy task. Merely to list the major interests with which he was actively concerned, giving a single sentence to each, would take too much space, yet their very number and importance and diversity is a significant measure of the man.

Before he was 25 years old, he had developed and published the first edition of the Decimal Classification, had established the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and had been the most dynamic factor in the founding of 3 national organizations—the American Library Association, the Spelling Reform Association, and the Metric Bureau (LJ, March 15, 1951, p.457). Before he was 40, the mid point of his life span, he had established the Library Bureau, which in addition to its primary function, brought into general use for the first time such today universal labor savers as the card index, vertical file, and loose-leaf binder; had created at Columbia University the first Library School and transferred it to Albany as the New York State Library School; had become Secretary of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, in charge of all higher education in the State, and had put thru the Legislature a revision and consolidation of the education laws of the State which affected the Regents; and was at

the same time Director of the State Library, the State Library School, and the new Home Education (today we would say Adult Education) Department which he had created. Within 10 years more he had received from the 1900 Paris Exposition, three of the very few Grands Prix awarded to this country—one for his Library Exhibit, one for his Home Education Exhibit, and one to himself personally; and had created and guided thru its early years the institution which for the last 25 years of his life was to become the focus of his immense energies—the world-famous Lake Placid Club.

To summarize briefly the outstanding personal characteristics of an individual as original and forceful as Melvil Dewey, is hardly less difficult, and brief statements must often read like a series of contradictions, for the contradictions were there.

My father had a rare gift of inspiring intense and lasting loyalties on the part of his associates and co-workers and even among more casual contacts. Yet, thruout most of his life, he was rarely without a harassing number of enemies. Some few of these represented hostility to the scrupulous integrity which he maintained in his official positions. More, probably, resulted from occasional failures in tact or patience. Still more, however, undoubtedly derived from the driving energy which was his most

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CENTENNIAL DINNER

observing the

100th ANNIVERSARY

of the birth of

MELVIL DEWEY

Lake Placid Club

Saturday, December 8, 1951

7 p. m.

1851

1951

Melvil Dewey Centennial Weekend at Lake Placid Club

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Melvil Dewey, the originator of the Decimal Classification System used in libraries thruout the world and a pioneer organizer in the library field as well as in the field of simplified spelling and calendar reform, occurs on December 10. The occasion will be given special observance at the Lake Placid Club in the Adirondacks which Melvil Dewey founded in 1895.

The week-end activities will begin with a Tea-of-Welcome on Saturday afternoon, December 8. A full afternoon and evening of entertainment will include a Trio Concert, an Anniversary dinner and a program which will feature tributes to Melvil Dewey by representatives of associations affiliated with his major interests.

A commemorative service in the Club chapel will be held Sunday morning to be followed in the afternoon and evening by a tea and a program of special recorded music and the traditional Club song service followed by an organ recital.

The program will also include appropriate ceremonies on Monday, December 10. Among the various groups which have expressed a special interest in the week-end program are the American Library Association, the New York State Library group, Amherst College where Melvil Dewey originated his now world-famous Decimal Classification, the Library of Congress, Columbia University Library School, the Spelling Reform group and the New York State Board of Regents. It is anticipated that various workers in these fields will be interested in attending. A special low week-end rate at the Club is offered for the occasion. Those desiring further information should address S. Herman Macy, Secretary, Lake Placid Club, Essex County, N.Y.

MELVIL DEWEY — 1851-1951

Melvil Dewey, whose many-sided genius left its mark on so many fields of human endeavor, was born December 10, 1851, in Adams Center, a small community in northwestern New York State. He died at Lake Placid Club in Florida on December 26, 1931, soon after his eightieth birthday. From earliest boyhood his life was one of intense and varied activity. Long before it ended he had been accorded international recognition for his achievements in various fields, principally that of education, library system and spelling reform.

Many believe that Melvil Dewey's most lasting claim to fame will rest on his origination of the Dewey System of Decimal Classification which is now in wide use in libraries thruout the world. In view of the great prestige which the system now enjoys it is somewhat startling to note that Dewey conceived the idea in all its fundamentals at the age of twenty-one, while still an undergraduate at Amherst College. Reduced to its simplest terms, Decimal Classification is merely the employment of the Arabic numerals 1 thru 9 to set up divisions and sub-divisions within which all branches of man's written knowledge may be encompassed.

D.C. CALLED LASTING ACHIEVEMENT

Referring to the system after the death

of its originator in 1931, Dr. Ernest Cushing Richardson of Princeton University had this to say: "The D. C. is a concrete achievement. It has already contributed hundreds of centuries of working time to research, higher learning and common knowledge and so long as it does last, will contribute centuries annually to the prime factors of human enjoyment and progress."

The New York Times took note of Melvil Dewey's death in a long editorial in its issue of December 28, 1931, from which the following excerpt is taken:

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"An appropriate epitaph for the late Melvil Dewey would be the above notation used in his library decimal classification system to identify his book. It would suggest the outstanding contribution of his eager and wide-ranging mind . . . Millions and millions (of books) bear his decimal brand and he will no doubt share, both in public and private libraries, the immortality of works in prose and verse whose place on the shelves he has permanently decreed."

From Amherst, where he remained as acting librarian for two years after graduation, Melvil Dewey went to Boston. This was in 1876 and the period between that

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THE STORY OF...

Lake Placid Club



IN THE ADIRONDACKS

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100th ANNIVERSARY
of the birth of MELVIL DEWEY
1851 - 1951

A summary of World English Spelling

The English language is simple in grammar and cosmopolitan in vocabulary; uniquely suitable for international use. English spelling is today almost unbelievably irregular and confusing; a major factor in illiteracy, and the chief obstacle to the rapid spread of English as a world language.

How bad is the present conventional English spelling? The first letter of the alphabet, *a*, is pronounst at least 8 different ways (not counting silent *a*, as in dead) in: quota at are any make image what walk. The 26 letters of the alfabet are pronounst an average of over 4 ways, counting muteness (every letter of the alfabet is sometimes silent). The name sound of this first letter, *a*, is speld at least 18 different ways in: make maelstrom main gaol gauge may prayed re great matinee ch veil weigh weighed ballet they conveyed bouquet. The 40 sounds commonly distinguisht are speld an average of over 12 ways apiece!

World English Spelling offers substantially one spelling for each sound, one pronunciation for each spelling. It accomplishes this result with—

- 1) No new letters;
- 2) No diacritics (which, in effect, create new letters, for typing and printing);
- 3) As little disturbance of familiar forms and usages as practicable.

World English Spelling is the outcome of long study and large experience by the Spelling Reform Association and the Simplified Spelling Board, now merged in the Simpler Spelling Association, in the United States; the Simplified Spelling Society, in Great Britain; and the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature, working in many countries throuth the world. It is used, with very minor variations, in the publications of all three of these cooperating organizations.

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MELVIL DEWEY
1851-1931

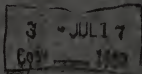
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THE GLORY ROUND
ABOUT

BY

CHARLES GROSVENOR OSGOOD

